

Department of Planning and Budget 2013 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1379

House of Origin ☒ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed
Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron: Yost

3. Committee: House Committee on General Laws

4. Title: Law Enforcement Assistance Program; DCJS to develop a peer counseling program.

5. Summary: Requires the Department of Criminal Justice Services to develop a peer-counseling program to provide services, in the event of the death of or tragedy involving a law enforcement officer in the course of his duties, to requesting immediate family members of the officer or to any other requesting law enforcement officer. The program must include a training course for any law enforcement officer who volunteers as a peer counselor.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 390

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary (see Item 8)

7a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2014	\$135,000	1	General Fund
2015	\$135,000		General Fund
2016	\$140,000		General Fund
2017	\$140,000		General Fund
2018	\$145,000		General Fund
2019	\$145,000		General Fund

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill requires the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) to establish a peer counseling program for law enforcement officers and immediate family members who may require services as the result of the death or serious injury to a law enforcement officer in the course of his/her duties.

Currently, there are several resources available to assistance law enforcement officers and their families. According to the Compensation Board, each Sheriff's office is provided with a listing of information and links to organizations that provide resources to sheriff offices and survivors of sheriffs and deputy sheriffs killed in the line of duty. This listing includes information on burial and financial assistance, educational benefits for dependent children as well as pension and healthcare information. Currently, the Virginia Department of Health

(VDH) coordinates sixteen state Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) teams to provide critical support to Virginia's emergency services community. The teams work with individuals or groups of emergency medical services, fire and police personnel. Team members provide pre-incident education and post-incident defusing, demobilization and debriefing. The Virginia State Police has its own internal CISM teams. These teams are comprised of both civilian and sworn officers with one team located in the eastern part of the state and the other in the west.

The requirements of this bill would be new responsibility for the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). According to DCJS, the agency would need an additional position to coordinate the counseling program, training and delivery of counseling services. This fiscal impact statement assumes that local resources would be used to deliver counseling services; if not, the cost of delivering this program would likely be much higher.

- 9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Criminal Justice Services, Virginia State Police, Virginia Department of Health, local Sheriff's and other law enforcement officers

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None

Date: January 21, 2013

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